

REGION 6 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

TOPIC: San Jacinto River Waste Pits Superfund Site

DATE: August 24, 2012

CONTACT: Gary Miller (5-8318)

PURPOSE/ACTION NEEDED: For Information

DEADLINE DATE: none

BACKGROUND:

- Former waste pits used for disposal of paper mill wastes containing dioxins and furans.
- Time critical removal action completed July 2011 by Potentially Responsible Parties to cover waste pits (temporary cover) and prevent further releases to the river.
- EPA issued Unilateral Administrative Order for completion of a Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study.

CURRENT ENFORCEMENT STATUS:

- Remedial Investigation in progress; expect Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study completion in 2013.
- Respondents and EPA continue to work towards resolving the issue of stipulated penalties resulting because certain work tasks were not completed by Respondents on or before the dates in the EPA-approved schedule for performance of the removal action.
- Meeting with Respondents in Dallas tentatively scheduled for Sept. 12.

ENVIRONMENTAL/PUBLIC HEALTH CONCERNS:

- Fish consumption advisories in place for San Jacinto River; persons should limit fish consumption to no more than one 8-ounce meal per month, and children under 12 and pregnant women should not eat any species of fish.

TECHNICAL CONCERNS:

- Final disposition of the waste materials in the waste pits containing dioxin.

REGULATORY/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS:

- Requirements of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Port of Houston, Army Corps of Engineers, Harris County, and others may apply depending on the final remedy selected.
- Special Clean Water Act permit area regarding dredging and disposal in vicinity of Site.

COMMUNITY CONCERNS:

- Contamination of river and fish in the entire watershed.
- The EPA co-leads a Community Advisory Committee regarding Site activities. This committee includes the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Harris County, the Port of Houston, Houston Galveston Area Council, the Galveston Bay Foundation, and the Potentially Responsible Parties. This committee meets every other month regarding progress at the Site and community issues.
- The EPA is participating with the Houston Galveston Area Council (HGAC) to study impacts of discharges to the San Jacinto River and watershed.
- A Technical Assistance Grant has been awarded to Galveston Bay Foundation.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Completion of the Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study,
- Continue participation in the Community Advisory Committee.

